A True RELATION Concerning the late Fight at Torrington,

Between the Forces under the command of Sir *Thomas Fairfax*, and the Forces under the command of the Lord *Hopton* and others.

SEnt in a Letter to the Honorable William Lenthal *Esq; Speaker of the Honorable House of* Commons, *and by him appointed to be forthwith printed and published:*

LONDON:

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1820
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To the Honorable *William Lenthal* Esq;

Speaker of the Honorable House of Commons.

SIR,

Saturday *Febr.* 14. the army marched from *Crediton* and the Quarters thereabout to *Chimleigh*, being ten miles, the day very rainy, and the way very deep; Sunday they marched very early to a Rendezvouz some two miles in the way to *Torrington*, with intention to have gone on; but our parties of our Horse bringing in some Prisoners, by whose Examinations we could not certainly learn which way the Enemy bent, the certain knowledge whereof would mightily advantage us, by taking the benefit of that side of the River on which they marched; whereupon another party was sent out of Col: *Butlers* Troop, the Forlorn of which party being twelve, took twelve of the Lord *Gorings* Life-guard, and twenty four Horse, and brought them to the General: upon their Examination it appears, the Enemy was ignorant of our Motion; That they were drawn to no Rendezvouz; That the Lord *Hopton* was in *Torrington*. Presently after there came a Spye from *Torrington*, who informed that that morning he left the Lord *Hopton* there, That they heard a kinde of an Alarm, but no certain Intelligence of our Motion. And being informed that a party of the Enemies Horse was at *Burrington*, the General sent a party of Horse to meet with them, who accordingly charged the Enemy, put them to a Rout, shot Lieut. Colonel *Dundash* through the body, and took several prisoners, and brought *Dundash* three miles on the way, but being mortally wounded, as himself

conceived, was inforced to leave him at *Ringash*, a Foot quarter of ours. This is the same *Dundash* that ran to the Enemy when the Earl of *Essex*'s army lay about *Tame*: This Lieut. Colonel commanded the Lord of *Clevelands* Brigade; the party of Horse that charged *Dundash*, was commanded by Captain *Barry* of Rutlandshire, who lost never a man; but only his Brother run through the arm, and one Mr. *Needler* of Captain *Knights* troop shot in the arm; we sent another party of horse towards the East, who likewise met with their horse, and took three prisoners and some horse, and shot Major *Bret*, who being well mounted escaped, those Forces confesse that *Hopton* was ignorant of our motion; by this time the Bridge was made up some two miles off Chimleigh, the which the Enemy had broken down, so that our army might with convenience march over: But the day being so far spent, it was not held fit to march the whole army, so three Regiments of horse, and three of foot marched some four miles towards the enemy; that night the rest returned to *Chimleigh* with orders to march; by break of day we did think the several alarms given them this day had so affrighted them, that their Resolutions would have been taken before morning, whether to go East or West, the certain knowledge whereof, was the thing we much desired, and would guide us the better to pursue our designes. Munday *Febr.* 16. the General with that party of the Army that was at *Chimleigh*, marched up to the rest of the Army to *Ringash*, and had there a Rendezvouz; and afterwards, upon the Moor within five miles of *Torrington* had a general Rendezvouz both of horse and foot, drew them up in Battalia, and so marched up towards the enemy. When we came within two miles of *Torrington*, our Forlorn hope of horse charged theirs, and put them to a retreat; whereupon they came on again with a very strong party, and

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put ours to a ſtand; the reſerves of our Forlorn being come up, and ſome foot, forced them to their Body again. When we came neer *Squire Rolls* his houſe, we had Intelligence that there was a party of 200 Firelocks and Muskettiers left to defend that place; therefore the Army made an halt half a mile in the Eaſtſide thereof, till the Foot came up; which the enemy perceiving, as they might eaſily do, by reaſon of the Hills and clearneſſe of the day, quit the houſe, and drew their Forces to *Torrington*: Our Forlorn of horſe and foot advanced to *Squire Rolls* his houſe, half a mile further towards *Torrington*, there being ſeveral skirmiſhes in the narrow Lane, between the Forlorn hope on both ſides, and ſeveral priſoners taken on each; but moſt by our party. The enemy drew their foot out of the Town into the Cloſes about a quarter of a mile: our Forlorn hope of foot lined the hedges, and ſo faced each other for about two hours, within half a muſket ſhot, exchanging courſe Language and Bullets, now and then; after all, the Foot and Horſe were come up, and drawn up in Mr. *Rolls* his Park: a party of 800 foot was ſent to ſecond the Forlorn. In caſe the enemy ſhould endeavour to put any affront upon them alſo, a Regiment was immediately ſent to aſſiſt them, who were no ſooner come up to the reſt, but it began to be dark, a Councel of War was called, what was fit to be done; whether to engage before day or not, for that it being dark, the enemy might lay Ambuſcadoes, they knowing the ground better then we; whereupon the General, Lieutenant General, with the reſt of the Colonels, deferred a Reſolution, and rid from Mr. *Rolls* his houſe up to the Forlorn hope, to ſee inwhat poſture our forces were ſet, and by priſoners to know what the Enemy intended while they were there. The Tattoo was heard to beat in the town, which aſſured us the Enemy ſtill continued in

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the town, not flying away as ſeveral Reports would have made us believe; but to be certain of the ſame, ſix Dragooners were commanded to creep under a hedge near the Barracadoes, and to give fire, to ſee if they would anſwer; by which we might know whither they ſtood to defend the town. The Enemy received the charge, and anſwered it with a very ſharp volley of ſhot. Our Forlorn hope ſeeing the Dragooners engaged, they gave fire; whereupon the Enemy gave fire all along the hedges and works; thereupon the Reſerve to the Forlorn came on to Relieve them, and ſo being engaged, the whole army advanced; and about eight at night the Battel begun ſome ſix fields from the town, and ſo we fought from hedge to hedge, until we beat them into their Barracadoes, which they maintained for an hour after very manfully, our men being often repulſed, yet at laſt got over the Barracadoes, and forced the Enemy into the town; whereupon the the Horſe were let in, who ſcowring the ſtreets, were received by the Enemy, and a hot charge given by both parties; yet it pleaſed God at laſt we drave them out of the Barracadoes at the furtheſt end of the town, and by this time many priſoners were taken, and put into the Church: but far more eſcaped, being dark, over the hedges and by-wayes, which was not poſſible for us to prevent, throwing down their Arms, and every man flying ſeveral wayes for life: our forces were no ſooner poſſeſt of the town, but the enemies Magazine which they left in the Church was fired; whether on purpoſe by the enemy, or by accident, we cannot yet learn: but it proved a terrible blow, not onely blowing up the Church with all the Wood and Lead that was upon it, deforming many houſes in the Town, but killed ſome of the priſoners in the Church, and ſome of our men that were in the Church-yard; two great Webbs of Lead fell within twice a horſe length

of

of the General; but it pleaſed God he eſcaped, though in imminent danger; many others being hurt, both with the Timber, Stones and Lead, moſt of the Town was ſhaken by this blow, being the terribleſt that hath been ſeen in the memory of man, there being neer eighty Barrels, of Powder blown up together, and one whole Barrel which were blown out of the Church into the ſtreet, which took not fire: The Enemy perceiving their Magazine to be thus fired, gave one Charge more with their horſe up to our Barracadoes, commanded by Sir *John Digby*, Brother to the Lord *Digby*, but our Muskettiers gave fire; whereupon they took their farewel. Our horſe inſtantly advanced through the Town after them, and begun the purſuite about eleven at night; and I hope will give a good accompt of the buſineſſe. Thus it hath pleaſed God in an inſtant to ſcatter thoſe Forces of the Lord *Hoptons*; his Infantry being taken, ſlain, and totally routed, his Horſe, many taken and diſperſed, and the reſt gone in great diſorder toward Cornwal, as we hear, where ſhortly I hope we ſhall meet with the remnant left of that Crew, and put an end to the field Enemy in the Weſt of *England*; they confeſt they had eight Regiments of Horſe, conſiſting of two thouſand five hundred men; ſome other of that their Officers that are priſoners ſay Three thouſand; be they more or leſſe, they are very reſolute men, fought valiantly; and after they were chaſed from hedge to hedge, defended their Barracadoes and works at puſh of Pike, and with the But-end of their Muskets, till our foot got over a hedge, flanckt them, that they were forced to quit it: They were old Corniſh foot, and all *Greenviles* and *Gorings* old Souldiers, Engliſh and Iriſh, were engaged in this Service, but now are ſcattered, threw down their Arms, and fled for their lives. We have abundance of men wounded, Officers and Souldiers more then hath

been at any ſtorm ſince the Army came forth: For indeed every hedge was it were a Bulwark to the Enemy; ſo ſtrong are the hedges in theſe parts; but few ſlain, we killed many of the enemy, both horſe and foot. The particulars of this buſineſſe you will have more fully hereafter; let the glory be given unto God, I am Sir

Torrington Feb. 17. *Your moſt faithful Servant,*

J. R.

SOme of their Horſe we hear are going towards *Barnſtaple*; Colonel *Cook* is that way: However, it will be needful Colonel *Whaley* quarters near *Newbery* with ſome of his Horſe to follow any party that may come to *Oxford*, and not divert our Horſe that are on ſo probable a deſign to further the weal of *England*.

FINIS.